

CLAIMS

1. A vacuum bottle assembly for use in dispensing beverages comprising
  - 2 a vacuum bottle having an inner liner, an outer body about said inner liner in spaced relation thereto and sealed to the inner liner to define a vacuum space between
  - 4 said outer body and said inner liner, said outer body and said inner liner being formed of a transparent or translucent material and a covering of reflective material on at least
  - 6 one of said outer body and said inner liner to minimize radiation heat transfer between
  - 8 the interior of said inner liner and the exterior of said outer body;
  - 10 a container having a bottom, and an upstanding side wall terminating in a dispensing outlet remote from said bottom, said container receiving and housing said
  - 12 vacuum bottle;
  - 14 a transparent or translucent window in said side wall extending upwardly from a lower location at or above said bottom to an upper location at or below said dispensing
  - 16 outlet;
  - 18 an interruption in said reflective material covering on said vacuum bottle of a size and shape roughly approximating said window and aligned therewith; and
  - an indicator within said inner liner and aligned with both said window and said interruption so as to be visible therethrough to provide an indication of the level of a liquid contained within said inner liner.

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2. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 1 wherein said indicator is at a fixed  
2 location within said vacuum bottle
  
3. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 2 further include a level/volume scale  
2 associated with one of said window and said indicator.
  
4. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 1 wherein said indicator is within said inner  
2 liner and is movable therein.
  
5. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 4 wherein said indicator is a float .
  
6. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 1 wherein said indicator is removably  
2 received within said inner liner so as to be removable from said assembly for washing.
  
7. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 1 wherein said indicator is of a color that  
2 contrasts with the color of liquid contained within said inner liner.
  
8. A vacuum bottle assembly for use in dispensing beverages comprising  
2 a vacuum bottle having an inner liner, an outer body about said inner liner in  
spaced relation thereto and sealed to the inner liner to define a vacuum space between  
4 said outer body and said inner liner, said outer body and said inner liner being formed

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of a transparent or translucent material and a covering of reflective material on at least

6 one of said outer body and said inner liner to minimize radiation heat transfer between  
the interior of said inner liner and the extension of said outer body;

8 a container having a bottom, and an upstanding side wall terminating in a  
dispensing outlet remote from said bottom, said container receiving and housing said  
10 vacuum bottle;

a transparent or translucent window in said side wall extending upwardly from a  
12 lower location at or above said bottom to an upper location at or below said dispensing  
outlet;

14 an interruption in said reflective material covering on said vacuum bottle of a size  
and shape roughly approximating said window and aligned therewith;

16 a pump mechanism removably mounted on said container at said dispensing  
outlet and having a conduit extending downwardly into said inner liner to or toward a  
18 bottom thereof in close proximity to and alignment with said interruption through which  
a liquid in said inner liner may be pumped to be dispensed at said dispensing outlet; and

20 an indicator within said inner liner and carried by said conduit in alignment with  
said window and said interruption, said indicator contrasting with a liquid within said  
22 inner liner so as to be visible through said interruption and said window to provide an  
indication of the level of a liquid contained within said inner liner.

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9. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 8 wherein said indicator is of a color that  
2 contrasts with the color of liquid contained within said inner liner.

10. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 9 wherein said indicator is removable from  
2 said inner liner with said pump mechanism for washing.

11. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 10 wherein said indicator is a float movably  
2 mounted on said conduit.

12. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 10 wherein said indicator is a vertically  
2 elongated colored surface on said conduit generally facing interruption.

13. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 12 wherein said colored surface is an  
2 exterior surface of said conduit.

14. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 12 wherein said colored surface is a face  
2 surface of an element attached to said conduit.

15. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 12 wherein said colored surface is at least  
2 as wide as said window.

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16. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 8 wherein said interruption is at least as  
2 wide as said window.

17. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 5 wherein said interruption is at least as  
2 wide as said window.

18. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 8 wherein said indicator is vertically  
2 elongated and has a height at least equal to that of said window.

19. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 8 wherein said interruption is vertically  
2 elongated and has a height at least equal to that of said window.

20. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 18 wherein said interruption is vertically  
2 elongated and has a height at least equal to that of said window.

21. The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 8 further include a level/volume scale  
2 associated with one of said window of said indicator.

22. A vacuum bottle assembly for use in dispensing beverages comprising  
2 a vacuum bottle having an inner liner, an outer body about said inner liner in  
spaced relation thereto and sealed to the inner liner to define a vacuum space between

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4 said outer body and said inner liner, said outer body and said inner liner being formed  
of a transparent or translucent material and a covering of reflective material on at least  
6 one of said outer body and said inner liner to minimize radiation heat transfer between  
the interior of said inner liner and the exterior of said outer body;

8 a container having a bottom, and an upstanding side wall terminating in a  
dispensing outlet remote from said bottom, said container receiving and housing said  
10 vacuum bottle;

12 a transparent or translucent window in said side wall extending upwardly from a  
lower location at or above said bottom to an upper location at or below said dispensing  
outlet;

14 an interruption in said reflective material covering on said vacuum bottle of a size  
and shape roughly approximating said window and aligned therewith;

16 a pump mechanism removably mounted on said container at said dispensing  
outlet and having a conduit extending downwardly into said inner liner to or toward a  
18 bottom thereof in close proximity to and in alignment with said interruption through which  
a liquid in said inner liner may be pumped to be dispensed at said dispensing outlet; and

20 an indicator within said inner liner and carried by said conduit in alignment with  
said window and said interruption, said indicator being of a color that contrasts with the  
22 color of a liquid within said inner liner so as to be visible through said interruption and  
said window to provide an indication of the level of a liquid contained within said inner  
24 liner;

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26      said vacuum bottle having a relatively small neck at its upper end with an opening  
therein through which said conduit is received and a flared mid-section wherein said  
interruption is located, said conduit, intermediate its ends being displaced toward said  
28      interruption and provided with an indicator carrying section that is close to and nominally  
parallel to said interruption.

23.      The vacuum bottle assembly of claim 22 wherein said indicator section has a  
2      height and width at least as great as the heights and widths of said interruption and said  
windows.